

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 6, line 22 through page 7, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Separation roller 38 is made of synthetic rubber, etc. having a high coefficient of friction and attached to separation shaft 38a via a torque limiter 42. Separation shaft 38a is supported at both ends by separation roller bearing unit 44 fixed to a rib 43 provided in conveying path 7. Separation roller 38 is blocked to rotate in the direction, that is the paper supplying direction, of transfer charger 16 until a torque applied to separation roller 38 by opposite paper supply roller 37 exceeds a reversing torque. When the torque applied to separation roller 38 by paper supply roller 37 exceeds the reversing torque, separation roller 38 is switched to follow the drive of paper supply roller 37 or sheets of paper P conveyed and driven in the arrow direction r, that is the paper supply direction.